

Chlorine Partitioning in the Arctic Vortex during Winter 1995 Derived from Submillimeterwave Remote Sensing and in situ Constituent Measurements.

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High altitude balloon flights of a combined payload of the Submillimeterwave Limb Sounder (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) and the whole air sampler (Institute for Stratospheric Chemistry) instruments were performed on 27 January 1995 and 08 March 1995. Both flights were launched from the ESRange launch facility at Kiruna, Sweden (68°N, 21°E) as part of SESAME, the Second European Stratospheric Arctic and Mid-latitude Experiment. The Submillimeterwave Limb Sounder (SLS) is a heterodyne radiometer/spectrometer that measures limb thermal emission spectra bands near 600 GHz while the balloon is at float (ceiling) altitude. Spectra measured at several observation angles are deconvolved using a radiative transfer model to infer constituent abundance. The whole air sampler collects flask samples at several altitudes during balloon ascent and descent that are subsequently analyzed using gas chromatography. Vertical abundance profiles from 35 to 10 km of several key reactive and long-lived atmospheric trace constituents were measured including ClO, O₃, HCl, HNO₃, N₂O and CF₂Cl₂. The first of these flights on 27 Jan sampled air within vortex as indicated both by the N₂O measurements showing strong air mass descent and the ECMWF analysis. The SLS field of view was directed toward a cold center (<193K on the 450K surface) to the east of Kiruna. Measured ClO peak abundance was 1.6 ppbv at 20 km while HCl was below the detection limit (~100 pptv) at that altitude. These data combined with estimates of total inorganic chlorine derived from N₂O profiles indicate that most of the available chlorine had been converted to ClO_x in the observed air parcel. The second flight on 08 March 1995 sampled warmer air outside the polar vortex. Long lived tracer profiles were indicative of midlatitude air. ClO was below 100 pptv at 20 km while HCl abundance was 800 pptv at this altitude.